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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In application of

Docket No: Q68741

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SEP 12 2003

Hiroyuki WATANABE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/086,432

Group Art Unit: 2651 Technology Center 2600

Confirmation No.: 1361

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: March 04, 2002

For: RECORDING MEDIUM REPRODUCING UNIT AND RECORDING MEDIUM
REPRODUCING UNIT ELEMENT

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

SEP 12 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed
concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a
counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information
Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063

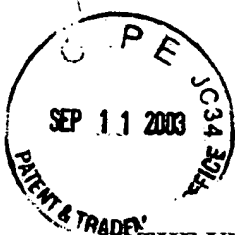
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

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SEP 12 2003

Technology Center 2600

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a Statement can be made, a Statement is submitted herewith.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/086,432

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q68741

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. *Also, the submission of the attached English language abstract along with Japanese Laid-open Publication No. 10-69736 constitutes a concise statement of relevance of the latter reference.*

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

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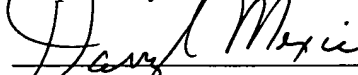
WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted


Darryl Mexico
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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 of 1				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/086,432
				Confirmation Number	1361
				Filing Date	March 04, 2002
				First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki WATANABE
				Art Unit	2651
				Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED
				Attorney Docket Number	Q68741

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 6,151,284		11/21/2000	Watanabe et al.
		US 6,168,459	B1	1/2/2001	Cox et al.
		US 5,572,384		11/5/1996	Kumagai et al.
		US 5,808,830		9/15/1998	Stefansky et al.
		US 5,343,357		8/30/1994	Driscoll et al.
		US 6,067,708		5/30/2000	Wong et al.
		US 5,245,486		9/14/1993	Hachiya et al.
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		EP	0 869 500	A2	10/7/1998	Mitsumi Electric Company Ltd.	
		JP	10-69736		3/10/1998	Sony Corporation	Abstract
		EP	0537707	A2	4/21/1993	Areal Technology, Inc.	
		EP	0335490	A2	10/4/1989	Rigidyne Corporation	
		WO	00/21350	A1	4/13/2000	Sun Microsystems, Inc.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.